

# Bomb test fails to capture interest

**M**ajor media across the country have turned a deaf ear on an upcoming bomb test at the Nevada Test Site.

This isn't an ordinary scientific exercise. The test, named Divine Strake, is an explosion of 700 tons of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil set to detonate in the Nevada desert.

It has been described in several documents as part of the Defense Department's run-up to the bunker-buster bomb, which is a tool the military would like to have in its arsenal to go after hardened, underground targets such as nuclear sites in North Korea, Iran or anywhere else the United States doesn't like the idea of deployed nukes.

And, yes, bunker-busters are expected to be nuclear devices.

The test will take place in a part of the United States that was soaked with radioactive particles during the nuclear tests that took place from 1945 until 1992. Some tests were underground, some were at altitude. All spread poison that caused disease through the 48 contiguous United States and into Canada, killing more than 15,000 people and injuring many times more.

No matter how many times the subject comes up, however, the national media ignores it.

The bomb will go off in the rural West. Why should they care? Because the jet stream picks this stuff up and dumps it randomly across the country.

Some of the places hardest hit by nuclear fallout include Kansas City, St. Louis, parts of Iowa, New York and other unlikely spots.



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This test is rearing its ugly head again. The Defense Department had promised the residents of southern Nevada and Utah a series of public hearings where they could register their comments. Those hearings have now turned into "open house" events where the public can walk through a bunch of displays, take in a PowerPoint presentation and send their comments to the government.

A draft environmental assessment says all would be well with this test. It would stir up the nuclear cocktail from the desert floor and redistribute it into the air. But it wouldn't hurt anybody.

That's a crock.

With the government's track record of lying through its teeth when the Cold War tests took place, who can trust it now? There is no way they can predict how much toxic dust will be shaken up, where it will go, on whom it will land.

So the possibility is that it cannot only land on you, but your family in Minnesota, Alabama, Florida, New York, Maine or even Quebec, Canada.

To read the government's environmental assessment, go to: <http://www.nv.doe.gov/library/publications/environmental.aspx> and to make a comment e-mail [divines-trake@nv.doe.gov](mailto:divines-trake@nv.doe.gov) or send a fax to (702) 295-0625.

It matters to all of us, whether we live in rural America or one of the bustling metropolitan areas.

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